



To the most kind and virtuous  
 Gentleman, Master  
 W I L L I A M      E S S E X      of  
 Lamebourne<sub>5</sub> In the County  
 of **Berkshire]**, Esquire.

SIR,

**I**T MAY seem strange that I should be thus far bold to make choice of yourself, a Patron of so slender a work; especially being so little known unto you as I am: but, howsoever, I protest what is done, proceeded from the unfeigned love I bear unto you, your own demerit, your friends' hope, and the good report of all men. All which are lively witnesses of your love to the Muses, your grace with Fortune<sup>^</sup> and your fame with the World; quickened in your birth, increased in your travails, and living after death.

Deign, sweet Sir, to pardon the matter! judge favourably of the manner! and accept both!  
 So shall I ever rest yours, In all dutiful affection.

Yours ever\*  
 B. G R I F F I N .